

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A support element for mutually supporting a fuel injector in a valve receptacle of a cylinder head of an internal combustion engine, as well as mutually supporting the fuel injector against a fuel distribution line, comprising:

a clamp body;

at least two clips extending from the clamp body and configured to interact with one of the fuel injector and the fuel distribution line; and

at least two brackets extending axially from the clamp body and configured to interact with one of the fuel injector and the fuel distribution line;

wherein the brackets are axially deformable at least one of elastically and plastically under an axial load applied by one of the fuel injector and the fuel distribution line.

24. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 23, wherein the brackets rest against a shoulder of the fuel distribution line.

25. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 24, wherein the clips rest against a shoulder of the fuel injector.

26. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 23, wherein the brackets rest against a shoulder of the fuel injector.

27. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 26, wherein the clips rest against a shoulder of the fuel distribution line.

28. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 25, wherein the number of brackets is exactly two.

29. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 28, wherein the number of clips is exactly two.

30. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 29, wherein the clips radially grasp the fuel injector.

31. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 25, wherein the number of clips is three.

32. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 31, wherein the three clips have the same shape.

33. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 32, wherein the three clips each have at least one curve.

34. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 31, wherein the clips have different shapes.

35. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 31, wherein two of the three clips have the same shape.

36. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 35, wherein at least one of the three clips has a tongue shape.

37. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 35, wherein at least one of the three clips has an onion shape.

38. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 37, wherein the at least one clip having an onion shape has a hole.

39. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 25, wherein the clamp body has a slit that is positioned in the area of an electrical connector of the fuel injector.

40. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 39, wherein the clamp body is made of stamped spring steel.

41. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 39, wherein the clamp body has axial edges that are folded radially inward and rest against the fuel injector.

42. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 41, wherein the support element has a substantially rectangular profile when viewed from the top.

43. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 25, wherein the fuel injector is braced against the fuel distribution line via the support element.

44. (Previously Presented) The support element as recited in Claim 43, wherein the support element is guided through the cylinder head of the internal combustion engine.